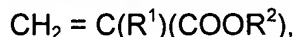


IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 (**currently amended**). A polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive ~~which essentially comprises comprising~~ a polymer formed from

a) a comonomer mixture comprising

a1) 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylic acid and/or acrylic esters of the ~~following~~ formula:



where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and R^2 is an alkyl chain having 1 - 20 carbon atoms,

~~at 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a),~~

a2) 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a), of olefinically unsaturated monomers having functional, aromatic, heteroaromatic or heterocyclic groups, or a combination of any of said groups, wherein said functional groups are specifically in-particular having selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups, ester groups, ether groups, anhydride groups, epoxy groups, amide groups, and amino groups, ~~having aromatic, heteroaromatic and/or heterocyclic groups,~~ at 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a),

a3) 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylate or methacrylate monomers having at least one functional group ~~at 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a)~~, which is capable of reacting with a photochemically generated base b), with or without addition of a catalyst,

the polymer being thermally crosslinked at least partly with 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture, of a base b) ~~in a fraction of 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture.~~

Claim 2 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1, ~~characterized in that use is made for~~ wherein the monomers a1) are selected from the group consisting of acrylic monomers which comprise acrylic and methacrylic esters having alkyl groups consisting of 4 to 14 carbon atoms, ~~preferably 4 to 9 carbon atoms, especially n-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-heptyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, n-nonyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, behenyl acrylate, and/or their branched isomers, such as 2-ethylhexyl acrylate, for example.~~

Claim 3 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1 ~~or 2,~~
~~characterized in that use is made for , wherein~~ the monomers a3) ~~of~~ are selected from the
group consisting of comonomers containing at least one carboxylic acid group, one
isocyanato group or one epoxide group, ~~preferably glycidyl methacrylate, acrylic acid,~~
~~methacrylic acid or 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.~~

Claim 4 (**currently amended**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of ~~any one of~~
~~claims 1 to 3, characterized in that as~~ claim 1, wherein said photochemically generated
base is generated from a photobase ~~generators use is made of~~ generator selected from
the group consisting of O-acyl oximes, anilide derivatives, ammonium salts ~~or and~~
organometallic compounds which liberate a base under UV irradiation.

Claim 5 (**currently amended**). A process for preparing polyacrylate hotmelt pressure-sensitive
adhesives from polymers formed from

a) a comonomer mixture comprising

- a1) 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a), of
acrylic acid and/or acrylic esters of the ~~following~~ formula:
$$\text{CH}_2 = \text{C}(\text{R}^1)(\text{COOR}^2),$$

where $\text{R}^1 = \text{H}$ or CH_3 and R^2 is an alkyl chain having 1 - 20 carbon atoms,
~~at 55% - 99% by weight, based on component (a),~~
- a2) 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a), of olefinically unsaturated monomers
having functional groups, ~~specifically~~
having selected from the group consisting of hydroxyl groups, sulfonic acid groups,
ester groups, ether groups, anhydride groups, epoxy groups, amide groups, and amino
groups, or having aromatic, heteroaromatic and/or heterocyclic groups,
~~at 0 - 30% by weight, based on component (a),~~
- a3) 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a), of acrylate or methacrylate monomers
having at least one functional group ~~at 1% - 15% by weight, based on component (a),~~
which is capable of reacting with the base generated by a photobase generator b), with
or without a catalyzing compound,

and

- b) 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall comonomer mixture, of at least one photobase generator b

~~at 0.01% - 25% by weight, based on the overall polymer mixture,~~

where said photobase generator b is incorporated into the comonomer mixture by mixing or copolymerization and where the solvent-free polymer or the polymer substantially freed from solvent, with the photobase generator incorporated therein, is coated ~~with the photobase generator~~, in a hotmelt process, onto a backing, and during or after ~~its~~ coating is irradiated with UV light, thereby generating a base photochemically, and the composition is subsequently crosslinked thermally by the reaction of at least ~~of~~ component a3) with the base.

Claim 6 (currently amended). The process of claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the solvent, if present, is removed with heating under reduced pressure.

Claim 7 (currently amended). The process of claim 5 ~~or 6, characterized by placement of the~~ , wherein the polymer is placed onto a film of water, with subsequent transfer from the film of water to the backing material, the water ~~preferably~~ optionally contributing to the crosslinking of the pressure-sensitive adhesive.

Claim 8 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 7, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein said UV irradiation takes place during coating.

Claim 9 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive on the backing material is irradiated with UV light over its full area and subsequently heated, for the purpose of thermal crosslinking, to a temperature of at least 80°C, ~~preferably to about 100°C~~.

Claim 10 (currently amended). The process of ~~any one of claims 5 to 8, characterized in that~~ claim 5, wherein structured polyacrylates are prepared by performing a structured crosslinking by irradiating the ~~base~~ polymer coating with ultraviolet light in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to the UV radiation.

Claim 11 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 10, ~~characterized in that the base wherein the~~ polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a perforated mask ~~in such a way that only certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to UV radiation.~~

Claim 12 (**currently amended**). The process of claim 10 ~~or 11, characterized in that the base , wherein the~~ polymer coating is irradiated with ultraviolet light through a film whose surface has regions of different UV light transparency, ~~whereby in such a way that~~ certain regions of the polymer mixture are exposed to different intensities of UV radiation.

Claim 13 (**currently amended**). ~~The use of the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of any one of claims 1 to 4 or of the hotmelt pressure-sensitive adhesive prepared according to any one of claims 5 to 12 for pressure-sensitive~~ Pressure-sensitive adhesive tapes and strips coated on one or both sides with the polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 1.

Claim 14 (**new**). The pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 2, wherein said alkyl groups consist of 4-9 carbon atoms.

Claim 15 (**new**). The pressure sensitive adhesive of claim 14, wherein said monomers a1) are selected from the group consisting of n-butyl acrylate, n-pentyl acrylate, n-hexyl acrylate, n-heptyl acrylate, n-octyl acrylate, n-nonyl acrylate, lauryl acrylate, stearyl acrylate, behenyl acrylate, and their branched isomers.

Claim 16 (**new**). The polyacrylate pressure-sensitive adhesive of claim 3, wherein the monomers a3) are selected from the group consisting of glycidyl methacrylate, acrylic acid, methacrylic acid and 2-isocyanatoethyl methacrylate.

Claim 17 (**new**). The process of claim 9, wherein said temperature is up to about 100°C.